

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta

The Alberta logo, the word "Alberta" in a white, flowing, cursive font with a small orange square containing a white "A" at the end.

Calgary

November 21, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Eighty thousand Albertans used food banks last year (0:16)

Setting the Scene



(Ben Stansall/AFP/Getty) (CBC file photo)

A food bank is a charity that gives food to people who can't afford to buy it. They often give diapers, baby food, and bathroom products too. In many parts of Canada, more and more people are using food banks because they don't have enough money to buy food. Even people who have jobs sometimes can't afford to properly feed themselves or their families. In 2008, the economy slowed down, and a lot of people in Canada lost their jobs. Food bank use has been increasing since 2008.

Pre-listening Questions

What kind of food do you think is expensive in Canada?

What kind of food do you think is cheap in Canada?

Are there food banks in your home country? Are there other charities for hungry people?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| <u>Answer</u> | <u>Vocabulary word</u> | <u>Definition</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| _____ | according to (adv.) | a) the act of becoming bigger |
| _____ | annual (adj.) | b) a study where many people are asked the same questions |
| _____ | report (n.) | c) as said by someone or something |
| _____ | increase (n.) | d) money earned from working |
| _____ | hampers (n.) | e) a document that gives information about something |
| _____ | income (n.) | f) the need for something |
| _____ | average (n.) | g) once a year |
| _____ | demand (n.) | h) typical or normal level |
| _____ | survey (n.) | i) baskets of food |

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

executive director – a senior manager in a business

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/2t48y3>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. According to Food Bank Canada's annual _____ report, almost 80,000 Albertans used food banks last year. | a) Homes of Canada b) Hunger Count |
| 2. In March, more than _____ food hampers were given out. | a) 600 b) 6000 |
| 3. That's _____ % more than last year. | a) 2 b) 22 |
| 4. James McAra says many people using the food bank have _____. | a) jobs b) justice |
| 5. According to the Hunger Count, _____ of Albertans who are using food banks are working. | a) 1/4 b) 40% |
| 6. The demand for food bank services grew during the hard _____ times of 2008. | a) energy b) economic |
| 7. Food Banks Canada says there may be _____ Albertans using food banks. | a) even more b) 8x more |
| 8. The survey was done in March, before the wildfire in _____. | a) Forest Heights b) Fort McMurray |

Food for Thought

What other supplies could food banks offer to people?

What are some other charities that help poor people?

Do you volunteer with a charity? If not, what kind of charity work would you like to volunteer with?

News story #2**New affordable childcare program for Alberta (1:41)****Setting the Scene**

Children in a daycare centre in Montreal, Quebec. The province has the least expensive model of daycare in Canada, at about \$7 per day (Ian Barrett/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Child care is an important issue for Canadian families and Canadian systems of government. In many provinces, there aren't enough daycare facilities, where working parents can bring their children. Facilities are often criticized for being very expensive and unaffordable for many families. In Alberta, the government will introduce a new program where child care will cost families only \$25 per day. This will make child care more affordable for people, and also create jobs in the province.

Pre-listening Questions

In your family, who looks after children when/if the parents are working?

What are the pros and cons of sending children to daycare?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Last week, the mayor **announced** that he will run in the next election.
 - a. said once a year
 - b. said to the public
2. She worked hard to get into that business program. It only had 25 **spots** for students.
 - a. positions in a program
 - b. goals in a program
3. The downtown cycle tracks are a **pilot** program. The city will build more if they're popular.
 - a. an experiment to see if a program will work
 - b. a program directed by one person
4. People over the age of 65 can get **reduced** prices on some items, like bus or train tickets.
 - a. made again
 - b. made lower
5. The local bank **pledged** 2 million dollars to help build a new community swimming pool.
 - a. promised to buy
 - b. promised to give
6. The community centre runs **nutrition** classes where you can learn how to cook healthy food.
 - a. the process of eating healthy food
 - b. the process of growing food
7. My son's school will **participate** in a charity event. They will collect food for the Food Bank.
 - a. to join others in doing something
 - b. to control or manage something

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

Premier – the leader of a province

shiftworkers – workers who do jobs at different scheduled times (e.g. the night shift)

special needs – physical, mental, or emotional problems that require extra care

publicly funded – paid for by government (taxpayer) money

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2t49qo

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The Alberta government will create 1000 new daycare spots.
2. Daycare will cost just \$20 per day.
3. It will also create 320 new jobs.
4. The program will see 8 childcare centres receive money.
5. Premier Notley would like to see daycare spaces for children of shiftworkers.
6. She also wants to see spaces run by adults with special needs.
7. The pilot program is a step towards a Canada-wide program.
8. The government is also giving 3.5 million dollars to school nutrition programs.
9. Each school board will choose the schools that participate.
10. Some schools will give free breakfast, others will give free cooking classes.

Food for thought

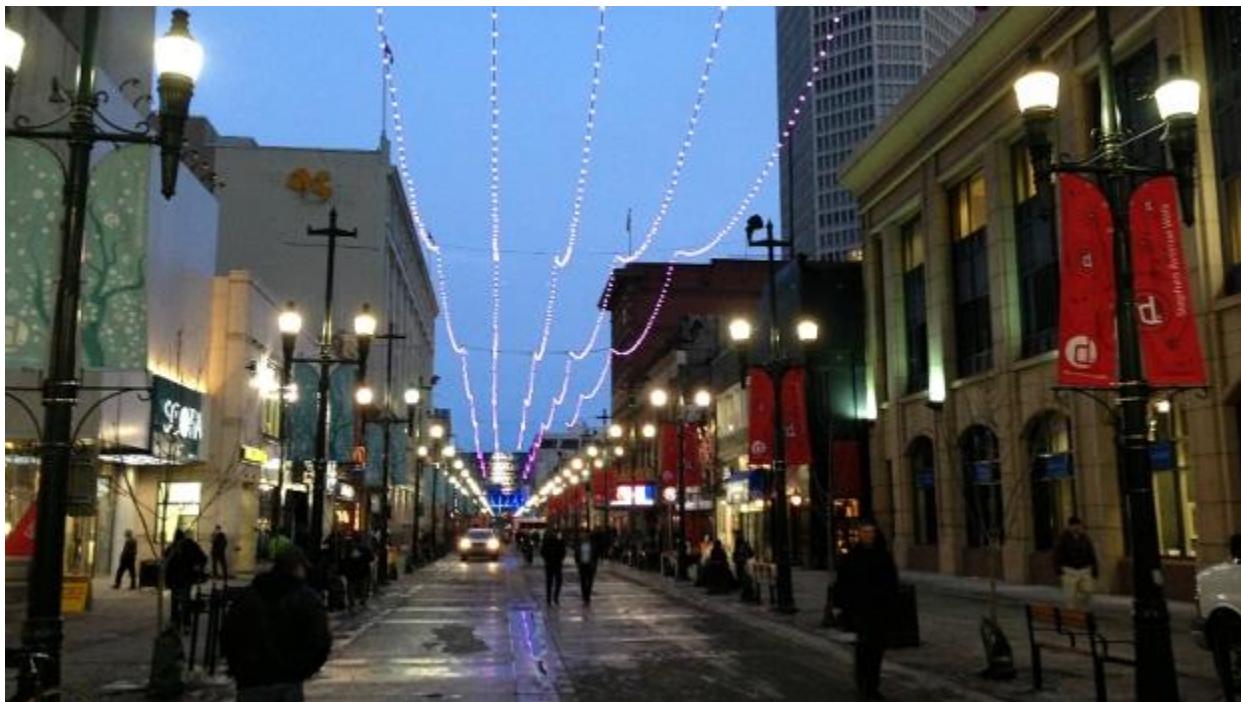
Do you think \$25 per day is a good price for childcare?

What kinds of activities do you think children should do or learn at daycare?

What are some other programs the government could make to help families?

News story #3 80% of people in Calgary report good quality of life (3:01)

Setting the Scene



Stephen Avenue, decorated with holiday lights (Mike Moynihan/CBC) (CBC file photo)

The City of Calgary ran a Citizen Satisfaction Survey. A survey is an activity to gather information. A group of people answer a set of questions about what they do, or what they think about something. Calgary, and many other Canadian cities, runs these surveys every year. They ask Calgarians (people of Calgary) how satisfied they are with local work, local services, and the quality of life in Calgary. The city can use this information to develop programs and services. It also helps them decide how to spend money.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever done a survey? What was it about?

Are you satisfied with your life in Calgary? Do you think your neighbours are satisfied?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| satisfaction (n.) | a feeling of being happy because of something done |
| released (v.) | published; let something be known publicly |
| quality (n.) | how good or bad something is |
| score (n.) | the number of points in a game or test |
| downturn (n.) | the process when business or production decreases |
| value (n.) | importance, usefulness |
| results (n.) | things or effects caused by something else |
| priorities (n.) | important things that need to be handled first |

1. Many people in the city lost their jobs last year. Creating more jobs is one of the top _____ for the city government.
2. Fewer people buy homes when the economy is poor. There is a _____ in the real estate market.
3. Paul got a great _____ on his final exam. He felt a lot of _____ because he worked very hard in that class.
4. The councilor said that planting more trees has a high _____ for the city. It makes the city more beautiful, keeps the air clean and creates places for birds and animals.
5. The doctor gave Lee a medical exam. The _____ showed that he has a virus in his throat.
6. My favourite singer _____ a new album last week. I love listening to it; I think the _____ of her voice is so wonderful.

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions. Use vocabulary words in the questions to help you answer the questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What was the name of Calgary's survey?

2. 8/10 Calgarians report a good quality of life – is this score higher or lower than last year?

3. What percentage of Calgarians say their quality of life has gone down?

4. People are feeling the effects of which downturn?

5. What other two questions did the study ask people?

6. How are the study results used?

Food for thought

What kind of questions would you ask the people of Calgary in a survey?

Where do you think the city should be spending more money?

Is there anything the city can do to improve the quality of life?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

| | NOVEMBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES | TIME |
|--------------|--|------|
| Introduction | Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for November 21st with stories that made news over the past week. | 0:00 |
| Story 1 | According to Food Bank Canada's annual Hunger Count report, almost 80-thousand Albertans used food banks last year. That's an increase of 18 per cent from the year before. In Calgary, food bank use is up even more. In March, more than 6-thousand food hampers were given out. That's 22 per cent more than last year. James McAra is the executive director of the Calgary food bank. He says many people using the food bank have jobs. They just don't have the income for food when something happens. According to the Hunger Count, one quarter of Albertans who are using food banks are working. That's much higher than the national average. McAra says the demand for food bank services grew during the hard economic times of 2008 and it hasn't gone back down. Food Bank Canada says there may be even be more Albertans using food banks because the survey was done in March before the wild fire in Fort McMurray. | 0:16 |
| Story 2 | The Alberta government has announced a new childcare program. It will create 1-thousand new daycare spots which will cost 25 dollars a day. It will also create 230 new jobs. The two-year pilot program will see 18 child care centres receive money to offer care at the reduced rate. Premier Rachel Notley would like to see daycare spaces created for children of shiftworkers and kids with special needs. She also says the pilot program is a step towards a province wide program. Notely's government also announced another pilot program this week. It pledged 3.5 million dollars for school nutrition programs at 14 publicly funded school boards. Each board will choose the schools that participate and what they will offer. Some will give students free breakfast, others will offer free lunch or snacks. | 1:41 |
| Story 3 | The results of Calgary's 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey have been released. The study found 8 in 10 Calgarians believe they have a good quality of life. While that is a high score, it's down 3 per cent from last year. 37 per cent say their quality of life has gone down over the last three years. The survey found this was because people are feeling the effects of the economic downturn more this year than last year. The study also asked where the city should be spending money, and if people feel they are getting a good value for their tax dollars. The results are used to help the city set its priorities for the future. | 3:01 |

Answer keys

News story 1 Eighty thousand Albertans used food banks last year (0:16)

Vocabulary

| <u>Answer</u> | <u>Vocabulary word</u> | <u>Definition</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| <u>c</u> | according to (adv.) | a) the act of becoming bigger |
| <u>g</u> | annual (adj.) | b) a study where many people are asked the same questions |
| <u>e</u> | report (n.) | c) as said by someone or something |
| <u>a</u> | increase (n.) | d) money earned from working |
| <u>i</u> | hampers (n.) | e) a document that gives information about something |
| <u>d</u> | income (n.) | f) the need for something |
| <u>h</u> | average (n.) | g) once a year |
| <u>f</u> | demand (n.) | h) typical or normal level |
| <u>b</u> | survey (n.) | i) baskets of food |

Listening

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. According to Food Bank Canada's annual _____ report, almost 80,000 Albertans used food banks last year. | a) Homes of Canada b) Hunger Count |
| 2. In March, more than _____ food hampers were given out. | a) 600 b) 6000 |
| 3. That's _____ % more than last year. | a) 2 b) 22 |
| 4. James McAra says many people using the food bank have _____. | a) jobs b) justice |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5. According to the Hunger Count, _____ of Albertans who are using food banks are working. | a) 1/4 b) 40% |
| 6. The demand for food bank services grew during the hard _____ times of 2008. | a) energy b) economic |
| 7. Food Banks Canada says there may be _____ Albertans using food banks. | a) even more b) 8x more |
| 8. The survey was done in March, before the wildfire in _____. | a) Forest Heights b) Fort McMurray |

News story 2 New affordable childcare program for Alberta (1:41)

Vocabulary

1. Last week, the mayor **announced** that he will run in the next election.
 - a. said once a year
 - b. **said to the public**
2. She worked hard to get into that business program. It only had 25 **spots** for students.
 - a. **positions in a program**
 - b. goals in a program
3. The downtown cycle tracks are a **pilot** program. The city will build more if they're popular.
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4. People over the age of 65 can get **reduced** prices on some items, like bus or train tickets.
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Listening

1. T The Alberta government will create 1000 new daycare spots.
2. F Daycare will cost just \$20 per day.
3. F It will also create 320 new jobs.
4. F The program will see 8 childcare centres receive money.
5. T Premier Notley would like to see daycare spaces for children of shiftworkers.
6. F She also wants to see spaces run by adults with special needs.
7. F The pilot program is a step towards a Canada-wide program.
8. T The government is also giving 3.5 million dollars to school nutrition programs.
9. T Each school board will choose the schools that participate.
10. F Some schools will give free breakfast, others will give free cooking classes.

News story 3

80% of people in Calgary report good quality of life (3:01)

Vocabulary

1. Many people in the city lost their jobs last year. Creating more jobs is one of the top **priorities** for the city government.
2. Fewer people buy homes when the economy is poor. There is a **downturn** in the real estate market.
3. Paul got a great **score** on his final exam. He felt a lot of **satisfaction**, because he worked very hard in that class.
4. The councilor said that planting more trees has a high **value** for the city. It makes the city more beautiful, keeps the air clean, and creates places for birds and animals.
5. The doctor gave Lee a medical exam. The **results** showed that he has a virus in his throat.
6. My favourite singer **released** a new album last week. I love listening to it; I think **the quality** of her voice is so wonderful.

Listening

1. What was the name of Calgary's survey?

Citizen Satisfaction Survey

2. 8/10 Calgarians report a good quality of life – is this score higher or lower than last year?

lower (down 3%)

3. What percentage of Calgarians say their quality of life has gone down?

37%

4. People are feeling the effects of which downturn?

the economic downturn

5. What other two questions did the study ask people?

- *where the city should be spending money*
- *if people feel they are getting a good value for their tax dollars*

6. How are the study results used?

to help the city set its priorities for the future